

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 SCEM-02 AGR-20 DRC-01 /170 W

----- 056019

R 251330Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5011

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, SA, TH

SUBJECT: THAI INTEREST IN SAUDI CRUDE OIL

REF: (A) BANGKOK 14446; (B) JIDDA 3578

1. THAI CHARGE ORACHUN TANAPHONG HAS TOLD EMBOFF THAT NOTHING RESULTED FROM THAI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA TO DISCUSS AN OIL/RICE BARTER. ORACHUN DISMISSED THE VISIT AS INCIDENTAL, NOTING THAT THERE WERE NO EXPERTS IN EITHER RICE NOR OIL IN CHARTCHAI'S ENTOURAGE.

2. THIS NONCHALANT VERSION OF THE THAI VISIT DOES NOT SQUARE WITH THE ACTIVE THAI INTEREST DESCRIBED BY REF (A). IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE THAI FOUND THE SAUDIS FAR MORE HARD-NOSED ABOUT OIL PRICES AND/OR COMMITMENTS THAN THEY HAD ANTICIPATED AND ARE NOW REVIEWING THEIR POSITION.

3. THAI MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN PIQUED BY NOT RECEIVING HIGHER LEVEL
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RECEPTION. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE HIGHEST LEVEL SAG OFFICIAL

THEY MET WAS MINISTER OF COMMERCE, WHO ALTHOUGH VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT FOOD SUPPLY, HAS NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT OIL. ORACHUN COMMENTED DISPARAGINGLY ABOUT THE SAUDIS' ALWAYS WANTING "SPECIAL CONSIDERATION" WHAT THEY ARE BUYING, BUT BEING ONLY TOO WILLING TO CHARGE ALL THE MARKET WILL BEAR FOR THEIR OIL. HE ALSO SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN USG'S RESPONSE TO SAUDI REQUEST FOR SPECIAL RICE/WHEAT PURCHASES (REF B), AND MADE POINT OF NOTING THAT THE SAUDI MARKET IS COMPLEMENTARY RATHER THAN COMPETITIVE FOR THAI VS AMERICAN RICE AS URBAN POPULATION PREFER AMERICAN WHILE THE BEDOUIN AND RURAL PEOPLE PREFER THAI.
HORAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, RICE, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: (A) BANGKOK 14446; (B) JIDDA 3578
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <14-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, SA, TH, (CHATCHAI, CHUNHAWAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005